

SPLOST

SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX

COMMUNITY UPDATE





Augusta Richmond County 2004 SPLOSTUPDATE

Public Safety

Parks & Recreation

Public Works

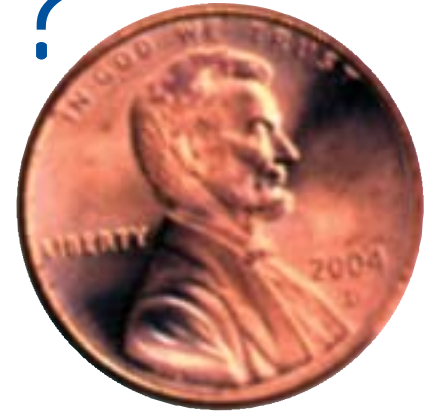
Augusta's Commission

Facts About Augusta

Frequently Called Numbers

What is SPLOST?

One penny. It does not seem to have much buying power these days, yet SPLOST proves otherwise. Through SPLOST, one cent has funded a soccer park, fire engines and a community center, just to name a few.



SPLOST, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, is a one-cent sales tax on goods in the county. Georgia law allows local jurisdictions to use SPLOST proceeds for capital improvement projects that would otherwise be paid for with general fund and property tax revenues. In some cases, the cost for these community enhancement projects would present too great a burden on the taxpayers to ever be undertaken. In other cases, the projects would be completed, but at a much higher cost to the community.

By using SPLOST funding to pay for improvements to our public safety, infrastructure and quality of life, Augusta enhances and improves our community. Since 1985, Richmond County residents have voted four times to approve or extend the SPLOST on four different referendums.

Funds Generated by SPLOST

SPLOST I	1986-1990	\$82,380.184
SPLOST II	1991-1995	\$100,995,531
SPLOST III	1996-2000	\$138,044,801
SPLOST IV	2001-2005	\$59,137,353*

*As of December 2002
Conclusion of SPLOST IV will be December 31, 2005

Public Safety



FIRE STATION #1

NEW FIRE STATIONS

Thanks to allocations from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), Augusta was able to construct six new fire stations and consolidate staff from former existing locations. Closing certain existing fire stations and moving teams to more strategic locations allows the Fire Department to protect the lives and property of Augusta citizens more efficiently.

FIRE STATION #1

Project Status: Complete

Fire Station #1 is located at 1 Broad Street. It has four engine bays. Fire Station #1 was completed in December 2003 at a cost of \$1.5 million. This facility houses Engine #1, our water rescue team and Battalion Chief 901.

FIRE STATION #19

Project Status: Complete

Fire Station #19 is located at Brown Road adjacent to Seago Road. The crew housing #19 moved from the old Sand Bar Ferry Road location. It has three apparatus bays. Fire Station #19 was completed in February 2004 for \$1,396,173. This facility houses Engine #19.

FIRE STATION #7

Project Status: Complete

Located at the corner of Willis Foreman Road and Lace Road, new Fire Station #7 houses crews from old Stations #7 and #8. It has three apparatus bays.

FIRE STATION #12

Project Status: Complete

Fire Station #12 is located on Hephzibah McBean Road adjacent to the Hephzibah McBean Community Center. New Station #12 replaced the old station on Highway 56 and has three apparatus bays. Fire Station #12 was completed in February 2004 for \$1,272,06. This facility houses Engine #12 and Tanker #1.

FIRE STATION #8 BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Project Status: Complete

Located at Highland Avenue and Parkway Drive, Fire Station #8 is the Battalion Headquarters and has four apparatus bays. This new station replaced the old station located at Central Avenue and Iris Drive. Fire Station #8 was completed in January 2004 for \$1,396,428. This facility houses Engine #8, Aerial Truck Company #4 and Battalion Chief 902.

FIRE STATION #15

Project Status: In Progress

Fire Station #15 is located on Flowing Wells Road and has three apparatus bays. The groundbreaking is scheduled for summer 2004 with projected completion in March 2005.

NEW FIRE EQUIPMENT

Project Status: In Progress

Due to the age and maintenance cost of equipment, the City embarked on a program to standardize and update the fire apparatus response fleet. From 2001 to 2005 this program will allow the Fire Department to purchase 11 engines and two aerial trucks.

NEW FIRE TRANSPORTATION

Augusta recently purchased eight new engines and will purchase three more this year.

ENGINES #15, #16, #19

Project Status: In Progress

SPLOST IV purchased new Engines #15, #16 and #19 at \$310,000 per vehicle. These Pierce Dash 1500 GPM pumpers were delivered in February 2004 and will be added to our first line fleet in March 2004.

AERIAL TRUCKS #3, #4, #6

Project Status: Complete

The City also purchased two aerial trucks to be housed at Fire Station #6 and Fire Station #3. The City added Aerial Truck #4 to our Fleet this past year. This Pierce 105 ft heavy duty, all-wheel steer aerial apparatus cost \$650,000.



ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER

ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER

Project Status: Complete

Focusing on customer service and animal welfare, the approximately 17,500 square-foot Animal Services Center is the perfect environment for pet adoption. The new design includes acoustical tiles for a quieter environment, a room for visitors and a pet store. Now proud new owners can get food, leashes and other pet supplies with a minimum donation to the center. The expansion was completed in 2003.



ANIMAL SERVICES

4164 Mack Lane
Augusta, Georgia 30906
Phone: (706) 790-6836
Fax: (706) 798-8978

HOURS OF OPERATION AND SHELTER ADOPTION SERVICES:

Sunday Closed
Monday Closed
Tuesday - Saturday 1-5 p.m.

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS, WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS

Augusta Dispatch
Phone: (706) 821-1080



EMERGENCIES

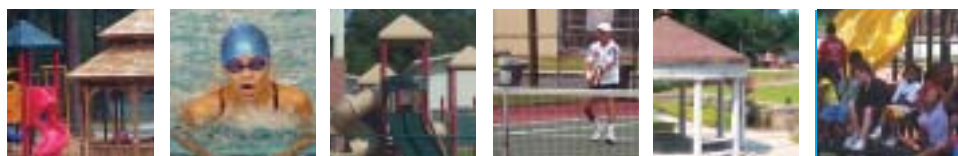
911

NON-EMERGENCY CALLS

Fire Department Dispatcher
(706) 821-2901

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Administration Office
925 Laney Walker Blvd. 1st Floor
Augusta, GA 30901
(706) 821-2909



Parks & Recreation

AUGUSTA AQUATICS CENTER

Project Status: Complete

SPLOST III funded \$4,530,000 for the construction of the Augusta Aquatic Center in 1999. This state of the art complex features a 50-meter pool for competitions, a 25-yard recreational and instructional pool and a 13-foot diving well. The Augusta Aquatics Center has proudly hosted numerous local and regional events, including the 1999 Georgia Games. Hosting aquatic events such as these brought in \$3,404,500, enabling the facility to expand and host larger events.

AUGUSTA GOLF COURSE

Project Status: Complete

SPLOST IV funded a \$1.7 million recreation project at the Augusta Municipal Golf Course, which paid off an initial Certificates of Participation's (COP) issue. The funds improved numerous aspects of the course including the installation of a new irrigation system, construction of a practice range and putting green, redesign and construction of the 15th and 18th holes, construction of a new maintenance building, parking and drainage improvements, as well as the construction of a new clubhouse.

In the fiscal year 2002, the Augusta Municipal Golf Course, operating as an enterprise fund, is generating approximately \$725,000 in revenues which covered the cost of operations thus saving the City thousands of general fund dollars.

AUGUSTA SOCCER PARK

Project Status: Complete

SPLOST III funding of \$1 million turned the Augusta Arsenal Soccer Club's dream into reality. The Augusta Arsenal Soccer Club and the City of Augusta joined forces to fund the Augusta Soccer Park - one of the finest soccer facilities in the state. This 30-acre park has seven fields (four are lighted) and a new administrative building with restrooms, concession area and much needed storage. The facility is home to the Augusta Arsenal's select soccer program as well as the joint recreational soccer program.

Annual participation at this soccer facility averages around 1,250 people, with 600 youth participants in the recreational soccer program and 650 (300 youth, 350 adult) involved through the Augusta Arsenal program.

Future plans for the park include purchasing additional property to add additional fields for the expansion of this popular sport.

BOATHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER

Project Status: Complete

The Boathouse, a joint project between the City of Augusta and the Augusta Rowing Club, opened in 1997. SPLOST III provided \$650,000 and the Augusta Rowing Club contributed over \$200,000 to the center.

Typically used as the Augusta Rowing Club and U.S. Sculling Association Headquarters, the Boathouse is also available for rental to the public for special occasions such as banquets, wedding receptions, corporate meetings, dances and luncheons.

Annually, there are approximately 75-85 paid rentals at \$750 each, with 40-50 of these rentals being in kind uses per year.

BROOKFIELD PARK

Project Status: Phase I Complete

Located at 2740 Mayo Road, this 6.5-acre park was opened on November 14, 2003. Funded by SPLOST Phase IV, the first phase of the development includes a 1/3 mile walking trail, a gateway interactive display fountain, a nine hole artificial putting green, picnic areas, playground comfort station, two gazebos, a grass volleyball area, landscaping and paved parking for 40 vehicles.

Phase II development would add a community center and tennis courts to the park completing the master plan.

DIAMOND LAKES REGIONAL PARK

Phase I Status: Complete

Phase II Status: In Progress

The former Augusta International Speedway was transformed into one of Augusta's cherished regional parks in 1999 thanks to \$12 million of SPLOST III and IV funding. Phase I of development included a five-field baseball and five-field softball complex with concession, scoring and restroom towers at each complex. Currently under construction, Phase II

includes a joint community center/ library facility. Future development will involve additional ball fields, a soccer complex, tennis court, an executive golf course, campgrounds, pond restoration and renovations to the old racetrack.

EISENHOWER PARK

Project Status: Complete

Eisenhower Park is the home of the West Augusta Athletic Offices and houses the premier sports complex in West Augusta. SPLOST III funding provided a complete makeover for the park that included four new ball fields, walking track, playground, ample parking, two scoring towers (one containing office space, rest rooms and concessions) and landscaped areas. This revitalized park annually plays host to 700 baseball, 200 soccer and 120



JULIAN SMITH BARBECUE PIT, LOCATED AT LAKE OLMSTEAD PARK (top)
DIAMOND LAKES REGIONAL PARK (bottom)

football players and cheerleaders, not including the athletes' family and friends cheering them on.

FLEMING PARK

Project Status: Complete

Fleming Park is composed of the Fleming Sports Complex, Bernie Ward Community Center, Fleming Swim Center and the South Augusta District Athletic Offices. Thanks to SPLOST funding the sports complex, community center and athletic complex have received a facelift. The sports complex improvements include new scoreboards, new fencing, relighting of the ball fields, new bleachers and renovations to the scoring towers. Other improvements include community center and swimming pool renovations and transforming the old Teen Town Center into the new athletic office. These enhancements have instilled pride in our staff, as well as the hundreds of families registering for athletic programs.

FLEMING TENNIS CENTER

Project Status: In Progress

In 1999 SPLOST III funded \$140,000 for improvements at the Fleming Tennis Center. Originally consisting of ten courts, five were rehabilitated and combined into three. Other improvements included resurfacing the courts and new nets, posts and lights. SPLOST IV funding of \$90,000 greatly enhanced the tennis center, including an addition to the pro-shop that is currently one-third complete.

LAKE OLMSTEAD PARK

Project Status: Phase I & II Complete

Lake Olmstead Park was created in 1872 and remains a recreational mecca for the citizens of Augusta. In 1996 the Augusta Commission approved a master plan for development. With SPLOST III and IV funding of nearly \$1,500,000, Lake Olmstead Park is on the restoration trail. Improvements to the park include renovations to the BBQ Pit and Julian Smith Casino, upgrades to the gazebo, parking areas, historical stone work, landscaping and shoreline.

Phase III of restoration is underway and will bring this park back to its glory days and help with the development of this designated National Heritage Area.

MCBEAN COMMUNITY PARK

Project Status: Phase I Complete

Close to both McBean and Hephzibah, McBean Community Park is the recreational wonderland of South Augusta. Phase I development funded by SPLOST Phase IV for \$1,020,000 included a new community center, walking track, multiunit play system, parking and plenty of open space and picnic areas. If approved by the Augusta Commission, the master plan will add two baseball fields, two tennis courts, a nature trail, camping site, BMX track and gymnasium to the community center, as well as a swimming pool.



EISENHOWER PARK



NEWMAN TENNIS CENTER

Project Status: Complete

Recreation and Parks Department has been operating Newman Tennis Center since 1997. SPLOST IV's funding of \$120,000 enabled the tennis center to replace roofing, install new flooring, paint the pro shop, resurface the tennis courts and improve access for patrons and deliveries.

SAVANNAH PLACE PARK

Project Status: In Progress

SPLOST III funding rehabilitated the highly utilized Savannah Place Park, providing the construction of a new parking lot, softball field, basketball court, playground equipment and picnic shelter. Being a full-service community facility, Savannah Place Park provides a multitude of leisure offerings and will soon include a gymnasium to be completed in 2004.

SAND HILLS PARK

Project Status: Complete

Sand Hills Park, the 2.5-acre recreational area on Wheeler Road, opened in Spring 2004. The park includes a paved walking trail, playground, open play areas, parking for 28 vehicles and a 7,300 square foot community center. The community center contains a recreation staff office, the neighborhood association meeting room and a police substation. The center also houses a 40' x 60' multipurpose room, craft room, computer and study room, meeting rooms, restrooms and a full-service kitchen.

WOODLAKE PARK

Project Status: Complete

Woodlake Park illustrates how SPLOST III-funded projects can revitalize neighborhoods. SPLOST funds allowed Augusta to add two new modular play systems, construct a footbridge over wetlands, lay concrete walkways to improve accessibility and renovate the picnic shelter.



WOODLAKE PARK

Public Works

The Mission of the Augusta Public Works and Engineering Department is to enhance the quality of life in Augusta by providing safe, efficient and effective programs for the management of storm water, facilities, solid waste and transportation in an environmentally responsible and aesthetically pleasing manner.

To accomplish this mission, it is essential that capital improvements be completed which enhance existing systems in order to comply with local, state and federal regulations; improve safety and operational conditions; address environmental concerns; and ensure that those improvements have a positive impact on the quality of life for the citizens of Augusta.

SPLOST funds, coupled with both county forces and private contractors, have resurfaced over 200 miles of road and paved over 25 miles of dirt roads throughout the county. Over the last ten years more than \$16 million in SPLOST funds have been utilized to support the dirt road paving and resurfacing programs.

DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Project Status: Complete

When SPLOST was initially implemented, its primary focus was to address drainage-related issues throughout the county. In the last ten years, over \$50 million in drainage improvements have been completed or are underway. SPLOST funds have also been used for over \$10 million in sewer and storm water separation projects, as well as over \$10 million in miscellaneous drainage improvements performed by Augusta forces. Some of the major drainage improvement projects funded by SPLOST include: (See Table #1)

TABLE #1

PROJECT NAME	COST (MILLIONS)
ARC Drainage Improvements, Phase II	1.2
Apple Valley Drainage Improvements	0.8
Boykin Road Drainage Improvements	1.5
Brookwood and River Ridge Drainage Improvements	0.5
Branch Street and Turpin Hill Drainage Improvements	1.4
Cannon Gate Subdivision Drainage Improvements	0.5
East Augusta Drainage Improvements	1.1
Forrest Park Subdivision Drainage Improvements	0.6
Forrest Estates Drainage Improvements	0.6
Hyde Park Drainage Improvements	1.7
Laney-Walker at East Boundary Drainage Improvements	1.2
Raes Creek Channel Improvements, Ph I&II	4.3
Richmond Hill Road Drainage Improvements	1.0
Rocky Creek Channel Tributary Improvements	1.9
Skinner Mill Road Regional Detention Facility	1.6
Sherwood Drainage Improvements	2.4
Second Street Outfall	1.8
Tanglewood and Kingston Subdivision Drainage Improvements	0.8
Wheless Road Drainage Improvements	0.8
Willis Foreman Road Drainage Improvements	1.1



ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND RESURFACING

Project Status: Complete

SPLOST funds are also being used for roadway improvements such as road widening, intersection restorations and bridge replacements. In many instances, other infrastructure rehabilitations are constructed in addition to roadway

improvements. These incidental improvements include addressing drainage issues in the immediate area, piping drainage ditches and adding curbs, gutters and sidewalks. In the last ten years, over \$70 million in SPLOST funds have been used on roadway related updates. Some major roadway projects include: (See Table #2)

TABLE #2

PROJECT NAME	COST (MILLIONS)	PROJECT NAME	COST (MILLIONS)
Barton Chapel Road, Phase I	1.2	McCombs Road Sections I&II	2.0
Golden Camp Road	1.2	Old McDuffie Road Improvements	0.8
Grand Boulevard	0.6	Perimeter Parkway Improvements	1.0
Jackson Road Widening	3.2	Rosier Road Improvements	0.6
Joy/Boy Scout Roadway Improvements	2.7	SR 56 at Old Waynesboro Road Improvements	0.5
Kissingbower Road Improvements	0.6	Skinner Mill Road Extension	1.6
Laney-Walker Boulevard Restoration	2.2	Stevens Creek Road Improvements	1.8
Meadowbrook Drive Improvements	1.4	Turpin Hill Road & Drainage Improvements	1.1
Milledge Road Improvements	0.5	Wheeler Road Improvements	1.8
Milledgeville Road Improvements	2.8		

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Project Status: Complete
In addition to providing direct funding for roadway and drainage projects, SPLOST also gives support to bringing Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) projects to Augusta. Since 1998, approximately \$18.5 million in 1% Sales Tax funds have been approved on Richmond County contracts. County contracts allow 40-60% of construction costs to be funded by GDOT while the County funds the remaining. In Phases I & II, GDOT provided almost \$10 million for construction utilizing County contracts. By using SPLOST for right-of-way and utility relocations, major GDOT programmed projects totaling nearly \$270 million have been completed in Augusta. Examples of major GDOT projects completed in Augusta Richmond County with SPLOST funds used to support those projects include: (See Table #3)

TABLE #3

PROJECT NAME	COST (MILLIONS)
Bobby Jones Expressway	1.4
Doug Barnard Parkway	2.4
Murray Road, Phase I & II	5.2
Tobacco Road Improvements Ph I, II & III	6.0
Wheeler Road Phase I & II	1.6
Windsor Spring Road, Phase I, II & III	8.1

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECTS

Project Status: Complete
In addition to programs previously mentioned, SPLOST has also funded over \$4 million on projects improving pedestrian safety and enhancing the quality of life. These projects include: (See Table #4)

TABLE #4

PROJECT NAME	COST (MILLIONS)
Augusta Common	2.5
Augusta Canal Pedestrian and Bike Trail	0.8
Glenn Hills Drive Sidewalks	0.4
Lake Olmstead Pedestrian Bridge	0.2
Washington Road Sidewalks	0.2

TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Project Status: In Progress
Other SPLOST funded transportation projects currently underway include: (See Table #5)

TABLE #5

PROJECT NAME	COST (MILLIONS)
Belair Hills Improvements	4.7
Belair Road Improvements	2.4
Bungalow Road	2.1
Downtown A&B	3.7
East Boundary Roadway & Drainage Improvements	1.2
Marvin Griffin Road	3.4
Morgan Road Improvements	2.3
Neely Road Improvements	1.2
Old Savannah Road Improvements	2.1
Travis Road/Plantation Drive Roadway & Drainage Improvements	6.2
Washington Road Intersection Improvements	0.8
Windsor Spring Road Improvements	2.1

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Project Status: In Progress
Since implementation of the program, the Public Works and Engineering Department has utilized over \$300 million of SPLOST funds. To date, over \$200 million worth of Capital Improvements have been completed, or are underway, with almost \$90 million planned or in the design phase. However, as we look to the future, the Public Works and Engineering Department has identified additional roadway, drainage, traffic engineering and building facility needs in excess of \$275 million for which funding is not currently available. Projects underway include: (See Table #6)

TABLE #6

PROJECT NAME	COST (MILLIONS)
ARC Drainage Improvements, Phase I	1.5
Barton Chapel Road, Phase II	2.9
Resurfacing Various Roads, Phase VIII	1.2
Raes Creek Section III	1.2
Warren Road Improvements	2.4



PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING
1815 Marvin Griffin Road
Augusta, Georgia 30906
Phone: (706) 796-5040



Augusta's Commission



DISTRICT 1
Betty Beard



DISTRICT 2
Marion Williams



DISTRICT 3
Barbara Sims



DISTRICT 4
Richard Colclough



DISTRICT 5
Bobby Hankerson



DISTRICT 6
Andy Cheek



DISTRICT 7
Tommy Boyles



DISTRICT 8
Jimmy Smith



DISTRICT 9
Willie Mays, III



DISTRICT 10
Don Grantham



CLERK OF COMMISSION

Lena Bonner

530 Greene Street · Room 806

Augusta, Georgia 30911

Phone: (706) 821-1820

Fax: (706) 821-1838

DISTRICT ONE

Betty Beard

Co-Chairman, Finance Committee

Public Safety/ IT Committee

DISTRICT TWO

Marion Williams

Chairman, Public Safety/ IT Committee

Finance Committee

DISTRICT THREE

Barbara Sims

Co-Chairman, Public Safety/ IT Committee

Public Services Committee

DISTRICT FOUR

Richard Colclough

Chairman, Public Services Committee

Engineering Services Committee

DISTRICT FIVE

Bobby Hankerson

Chairman, Administrative Services Committee

Public Services Committee

DISTRICT SIX

Andy Cheek

Chairman, Engineering Services Committee

Administrative Services Committee

DISTRICT SEVEN

Tommy Boyles

Chairman, Finance Committee

Public Safety/ IT Committee

DISTRICT EIGHT

Jimmy Smith

Co-Chairman, Public Services Committee

Engineering Services Committee

DISTRICT NINE

Willie Mays, Mayor Pro Tempore

Co-Chairman, Engineering Services Committee

Administrative Services Committee

DISTRICT TEN

Don Grantham

Co-Chairman, Administrative Services Committee

Finance Committee

Facts About Augusta

FOUNDED

1736 by General James Oglethorpe

POPULATION

199,775

MEDIAN INCOME

\$30,686

SQUARE MILES

330 square miles

NAMED FOR

British Princess of Wales

NUMBER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

2,615

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

Mayor/Council - 10 Elected Commissioners:
eight districts and two super districts, plus
Mayor elected at large.

BOND RATING

A+

VALUE OF ASSESSED PROPERTY

\$3.5 Billion

TOP 5 EMPLOYERS

Fort Gordon, Medical College of Georgia,
Richmond County School System, University
Health Care System, City of Augusta, Georgia

Scheduled Commission Meetings

Regular Commission meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 2:00 p.m. Committee meetings are held the second and last Mondays of each month with the following schedule:

Public Services	12:30 p.m.	Finance	2:00 p.m.
Administrative Services	1:00 p.m.	Engineering Services	3:00 p.m.
Public Safety	1:30 p.m.		



MAYOR BOB YOUNG

The Mayor

Mayor's Office

530 Greene Street · Room 806

Augusta, Georgia 30911

Phone: (706) 821-1831

Fax: (706) 821-1835

Frequently Called Numbers

Administrator's Office	821-2400	Public Works & Engineering	796-5040
Animal Services	790-6836	Purchasing	821-2422
Augusta Cares		Recreation & Parks	796-5025
Customer Service and Information	821-2300	Riverwalk Special Events	821-1754
Board Of Elections	821-2340	Sheriff's Office	
Clerk of Commission	821-1820	Information	821-1000
Emergency Management Agency	821-1155	Solid Waste Management	
Fire Department		Garbage Collection	592-2085
Information	821-2909	Landfill	592-9634
Housing & Neighborhood Development	821-1797	Tag Office/Main Office	821-2476
Human Resources	821-2303	Tax Assessor's Office	821-2310
License and Inspection	312-5050	Tax Commissioner's Office	821-2391
Marshal's Office	821-2368	Utilities Department	821-1851
Mayor's Office	821-1831		
Planning & Zoning	821-1796		
Public Transit	821-1719		

FOR A COMPLETE LIST VISIT

WWW.AUGUSTAGA.GOV

